

will awake to the fact that they had a good, long, complacent, pipe dream. Their contention that it is not possible to determine which ads are ethical and which are not, is simply absurd, puerile and idiotic. Let them answer these simple questions: Is it a medicine? Is the composition of this stuff known to the doctor who is asked to prescribe or use it? Are the advertising statements made within the truth? Is it advertised to the laity? In answering the second question it is not simply necessary that the composition shall be known to the editor, or the trustees, or the manufacturer, or to some other irresponsible person or persons; does the doctor who prescribes the stuff know exactly what his patient is going to take? Face-tious! Heaven save the mark!

It is time that every physician in the State took heed for the future. The State legislative body will assemble to tinker and tamper with the laws, before many months have passed, and it now seems absolutely certain that an attempt will be made to so modify the Medical Practice Act as to completely emasculate it. It is rumored that the eddyites have joined forces with some illegal practitioners and some disgruntled ones, and have provided and are providing a not inconsiderable fund for the purpose of attempting to upset the law. Let every physician in the State calmly consider the murders that would ensue were the doors thrown open to everyone, practically, who wanted to practice medicine, to do so. There are enough unfortunate mistakes made by those who have licenses, without piling up the legalized murders of a host of incompetents by throwing down or in any way relaxing the provisions of the law. Before he is elected is the time to find out just how your representative stands on the question of the Medical Practice Act, and there is no great amount of time to waste. Election day is coming on apace, and before we know it the tinkers will be busy. We have no large fund of money at our disposal, but we have an endless amount of energy; now is a pretty good time to use some of it, and in the direction indicated.

There are some individual members of the medical profession—and they are generally located far from big cities—who, by their courage, put to shame the do-nothing county medical societies, when it comes to warring on the illegal gentry. Two instances of the sort have come to the attention of the JOURNAL since the last issue. In Mendocino County, Dr. L. C. Gregory swore out a warrant for a "Dr." Diddle, worked hard to get the evidence to present, stirred up the district attorney to the point of action, kept at the thing until the case came to trial, and then saw all his work go to nought because of the friendship of a few jurymen for the accused. Several of the witnesses perjured themselves in the course of

the trial. It is a shame that county societies as such will not do their plain duty. The work would not be hard if they would only get at it. But it is so much easier to sit still and do nothing. The other instance occurred in Groveland, where Dr. W. H. Roberts went to a great deal of trouble and spent a good deal of time working up evidence against a notorious illegal practitioner, one Peshace. We do not know whether this trial has yet come off, nor the result. Certainly Drs. Gregory and Roberts are to be congratulated for their work and for what they have done to help clean up California. Please, gentlemen, do not grow discouraged; keep at the good work and in time you will shame others into giving you a helping hand.

One feature in the case of Diddle, the quack, is of especial interest. We are advised that within two weeks from the date of his trial, the jury disagreeing, two agents of the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, of San Francisco, California, stated that this same Diddle had made several examinations for them for their company, *after the trial*. Now, they knew the man was an illegal practitioner; they had every reason to believe that he did not possess sufficient medical education to pass the state examinations, or he would have done so. They are guilty of carelessness and negligence—or worse—in having a presumably incompetent man examine a prospective risk of the company for which they are working. And furthermore, not only these agents, but the company that permitted them to allow such a quack to examine and report upon applicants for insurance, deliberately gave an insult to the reputable, licensed physicians of California. There is not the slightest reason or excuse for an insurance company allowing unlicensed "physicians"—quacks—to examine their clients; there are plenty of good doctors who have licenses, to do the work and do it well. Least of all should a California company ignore the laws of California by giving encouragement to its violators. We could make but one suggestion; let the "quacks" make all the examinations for those companies that pay less than \$5.00—refuse to make an examination yourself for less, and then the companies will surely get all that is coming to them.

The new Register and Directory is now on the press and ought to be issued during the first week in October. We shall do all we can to get it delivered as soon as possible, and the plan of last year will be followed. A number of copies corresponding to the number of members enrolled in each county society will be sent to the secretary of such society, who in turn will distribute them to the members. If you do not receive your Register by the 1st of November, write to your county society secretary and ask

him about it. It will be noticed that there is a large list of those whose addresses are unknown. We have written three times to the last known address, or have used every means possible to secure the present location. In many instances the letters have come back from the postoffice marked "Can't be found." We ask the help of every physician in the three coast states to locate these physicians and to give us prompt advices of the death of physicians in their vicinity, or of the advent of new ones. We have used the greatest diligence in correcting the Oregon and Washington lists, but doubtless there will be found many errors. These we shall endeavor to reduce in number during the year and bring those lists up to the standard of the California department. For the sake of easier reference, the town of location has been stricken from the general alphabetical list, and the county substituted for it. The county has also been placed at the top of each page, to serve as a running guide. Tinted paper has been introduced to further aid ready reference. The Publication Committee has given a great deal of careful thought to all of these details and sincerely trusts that the result of its labors will be satisfactory to you. Suggestions from members will be highly esteemed, and in every case will be carefully considered by the committee.

Very rapid progress has been made along certain lines of research in experimental medicine.

SERUM TEST FOR BLOOD. While but little definite knowledge of the changes in serum due to immunization has been obtained, a large mass of facts and information relative to immunization, toxics and anti-toxics has been piled up. Many men in many places are working over these facts with the hope of sooner or later hitting upon the missing explanations. Into almost every branch and department of medicine has been injected the serum, in some form or other. Its medico-legal value has more recently been developed, and will undoubtedly become in time a very important asset of the court. The power to resist disease induced by grafting the disease upon the living animal in such a way as to secure the end desired without causing the death of the animal, has been recognized for many years in at least the one case of smallpox. Why this power of resistance is so induced, what brings about this immunization, are questions as yet unanswered. Why is it that the anti-substances which are produced by the presence of bacteria in the body will attack those particular bacteria and no others? We simply do not know, but we recognize the fact. The work of Gruber, Durham and Widal has attracted universal attention to the truth of these facts. It is the precipitins, one of the four classes of anti-substances that may be produced by the action of bacteria or of emulsions of various organs upon the blood, that bid fair to be of great value in medico-legal work. The posi-

tive determination of semen is stated to be a matter of great ease, by this method. The determination of blood stains will be of much more value and of more frequent use. Any previously known test could identify old, putrid or dried-up and dirty human blood, simply as blood, and not always even as that, to the entire satisfaction of the court. By the use of the new serum method, when properly handled and with full and proper control, Evans and Gehrman claim that it is possible to determine human blood, no matter how old, dirty or putrid it may be, and in dilutions as great as 1 to 1,000,000; far beyond the power of any spectroscopic method.

Why in the world do so many people waste four years of their lives, and several hundreds of

dollars, at the least, in order to acquire a medical education? It is perfectly useless when acquired.

All that is really necessary, to practice medicine, is to take a large number of medical journals, read carefully the directions given by the advertisers, act in accordance with their instructions, and there you are. It need not be the business of the "doctor" to know what the sick or supposedly sick person is taking; the manufacturer knows that; he is making life easy for the doctor. His is the heavy burden; he must find out what is the right thing for the patient to take under given circumstances, and all you have to do is to obey him exactly. For instance: "Doctor, I need a tonic." The next time a patient says this to you, write a prescription for Colden's Liquid Beef Tonic. The patient may be right." There you have it. Don't you see? The patient makes the diagnosis, and "he may be right"; the manufacturer makes the stuff for him, and you are instructed to order him to take it; it may do him good; or it may "do him" good and plenty; you cannot tell. But the all-wise manufacturer knows what you should do, and tells you to do it. There is, of course, the odd chance that the patient may be suffering from nephritis, a heart lesion, or something else that would require far different stuff from what may be contained in the "tonic"; but that is none of your business—the manufacturer assures you that "the patient may be right." Can the mind of man conceive impudence carried to a greater extreme! And we let this sort of thing go on! We, the members of a liberal profession, supposedly possessing brains and special education, permit this unmitigated, insulting impudence!

There seems to be more or less complaint all over the country in regard to the hodge-podge appearance of the average drug store, and the large number of proprietary medicines and nostrums carried and sold by the average druggist. There is also talk, in many quarters, about office dispensing by the physician. The situation is certainly

A CURIOUS CONDITION.